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Multilingualism

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie

Letter dated 15 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit to you herewith the Yerevan Declaration adopted at the seventeenth Summit of the Heads of State and Government of La Francophonie held under the theme "Living Together" in Yerevan on 11 and 12 October 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 127 and 128 (j).

(*Signed*) Mher **Margaryan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 15 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: French]

XVII Summit of the Heads of State and Government of countries having French as a common language

Yerevan, 11–12 October 2018

Yerevan Declaration

Preamble

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of countries having French as a common language, meeting on 11 and 12 October 2018, on the occasion of the XVII Summit of la Francophonie, in Yerevan, which coincides with the commemoration of the 2,800th anniversary of the foundation of that city, the capital of the Republic of Armenia;

2. Welcoming the holding of this Summit in Armenia, which demonstrates the depth of the commitment of that country, with its thousands of years of history and lying at the crossroads of civilizations, to the French language and culture and to the enhancement of their standing internationally;

3. Noting the challenges faced by the French-speaking world and resolved to address the legitimate aspirations of its people, especially young people and women, for sustainable development, inclusive growth and environmental conservation;

4. Convinced of the urgent need to enhance cohesion in our societies and promote the values of peace, solidarity, democracy and human rights, in accordance with the Charter of la Francophonie and the Bamako and Saint Boniface declarations, which are guiding instruments of the French-speaking world;

5. Reaffirming our commitment to the French language and respect for the cultural and linguistic diversity in our States and Governments that is the bedrock of the French-speaking world;

6. Acknowledging the importance of ensuring that the French language thrives in the digital realm;

Decide to devote this XVII Summit to the theme:

Living together in solidarity, with shared humanistic values and respect for diversity: a source of peace and prosperity for the French-speaking community

I. Living together through shared humanistic values

Considering that living together requires a shared set of values,

7. We reiterate the firm commitment to peace, security and stability of the French-speaking world and our commitment to promote a just and equitable international order based on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

8. Bearing in mind the Saint Boniface Declaration, the 12th anniversary of which was celebrated on 11 May 2018 in Ottawa, we reaffirm that, in a world confronted by common dangers and transnational threats, multilateralism remains the best framework for international cooperation and that peacebuilding, strengthened

collective security and global sustainable development are common tasks that must be carried out while fully respecting the sovereignty of States;

9. We reaffirm that respect for and the promotion of human rights is an overriding priority and stand by our commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, now in its 70th year;

10. Believing firmly in the inalienable character of the dignity and equal value of all human beings, women and men, we are resolved to continue working to guarantee the universality of human rights and their equitable application by all of our States and Governments and support the strengthening of the capacity and role of national, regional and international mechanisms in the field of human rights;

11. We reaffirm our commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights (civil, political, economic, social and cultural), which are fundamental, inalienable, universal, indivisible and interdependent, through dialogue, cooperation, capacity-building, technical assistance and the recognition of best practices, in order to build collective and sustainable peace and prosperity in the French-speaking world and globally and, in that regard, recall the adoption by the United Nations of the Declaration on the Right to Development, which aims to create economic and social conditions conducive to development for all peoples and individuals;

12. We reaffirm our commitment to democracy and the rule of law, which underpin our common values, and to democratic governance, respect for our Constitutions and the holding of free, regular, fair, transparent and inclusive elections;

13. We call for the achievement of genuine equality between women and men in the belief that such equality fosters peace, prosperity and poverty eradication; underline the importance of the contribution by the French-speaking world to the promotion of women's rights and the essential role of women in the political, economic, cultural and social life of all our States and Governments; support the initiatives taken in the framework of the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF) that address equality between women and men in a structured and systematic fashion, regardless of the nature of particular actions and policies or the actors involved in their implementation; and welcome the holding, on 1 and 2 November 2017 in Bucharest, of the Conference of Women of la Francophonie to promote the economic empowerment of women, the launch of a network of French-speaking women entrepreneurs and the adoption, on 13 March 2018, of the action plan on women's economic empowerment in the French-speaking world, during the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women of the Economic and Social Council;

14. We adopt and undertake to implement the strategy for the promotion of equality between women and men and the rights and empowerment of women and girls in the French-speaking world, which is intended to ensure equality between the sexes in the public and private spheres; guarantee access for girls and women to high-quality and inclusive education, training, decent work and health; promote their empowerment, prevent and combat all forms of violence, abuse and discrimination committed against them; and ensure their full, effective and equal participation in political, economic, cultural and public life, including the prevention and resolution of conflicts;

15. We are determined to end all forms of violence against women and children, including domestic and conjugal violence, child marriage, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and sexual violence and exploitation, including when they are committed in situations of humanitarian crisis or armed conflict;

16. We reaffirm our commitment to child health and the protection of children from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation and resolve to take, together with the relevant stakeholders, the measures necessary to ensure the physical and psychological rehabilitation of child victims and their social reintegration;

17. We undertake to guarantee the full exercise of fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of expression, the effective protection and security of journalists, freedom of the press and the development of independent mechanisms for the ethical regulation of the mass media, bearing in mind the threat posed by disinformation and the manipulation brought about by the production, withholding or distortion of information;

18. We condemn all violations of international humanitarian law and attempts to manipulate or politicize humanitarian issues and call for civilians to be protected and their human rights and fundamental freedoms to be guaranteed in areas of conflict and for rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access to be ensured;

19. In accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, we reaffirm our commitment to the peaceful settlement of crises and conflicts that affect the French-speaking world, including through internationally recognized negotiating formats; seek always to foster dialogue, the use of good offices and mediation to reach negotiated solutions to crises and conflicts; and support a greater role for women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts;

20. We recall the primacy of international law in all circumstances, including in modern-day situations of violence, and that measures taken to prevent and combat terrorism and violent extremism must be consistent with obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law;

21. We maintain our efforts to thwart genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity and combat impunity for the perpetrators of such crimes and call for stronger preventive measures in order to protect populations; underline the importance, in that regard, of cooperating with the international criminal justice system and facilitating the development of judicial cooperation procedures between States, which is essential for prosecuting the perpetrators of the most serious crimes; reaffirm the importance of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, on the eve of the 70th anniversary of its adoption; and undertake to mark the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of This Crime, which was established in 2015 by the United Nations, each year on 9 December;

22. We underscore, in the belief that the denial or justification of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity can lead to impunity, hamper the prevention of such crimes and nullify reconciliation among peoples, the importance of educational programmes aimed at preventing them and strongly encourage enhanced public awareness of the need to combat such crimes, unstinting action to counter genocide denial and the galvanization of international efforts to prevent their recurrence;

23. We emphasize the critical role of education as a means of learning how to live in the spirit of democracy and respect for human rights and for promoting diversity, equality between women and men, tolerance and inclusion and call upon OIF, working closely with the relevant institutions in the French-speaking world, to build into its cooperation activities awareness-raising programmes on the culture of peace, human rights, citizenship and living in democracy;

24. We reaffirm our full support for the efforts of OIF, together with its regional and international partners and in conjunction with the Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie and institutional networks in the French-speaking world, to prevent, manage and resolve crises and conflicts, assist in transition and peacebuilding processes, foster adhesion to the principles of international law and strengthen democracy and respect for human rights and call upon the Secretary General to continue and broaden her activities and those of OIF in that regard;

25. We attach great importance to improving cooperation between the United Nations and OIF in the area of conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peace maintenance; welcome international efforts to promote peace, increase the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations and build the relevant capacities; welcome also the participation of French-speaking personnel in peacekeeping operations deployed by the United Nations and regional organizations in areas of conflict in the French-speaking world; call for continued efforts to enhance the presence and build the capacity of French-speaking personnel, increase the representation of personnel with a good command of French and ensure the full participation of women in peacekeeping operations; welcome further the establishment of the Boutros-Ghali Peacekeeping Observatory and undertake to harness the potential of that new instrument;

26. We support international efforts to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East that would enable two States, Palestine and Israel, to live side by side in peace, security and mutual recognition, within secure and internationally recognized borders. Such a peace must be based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003) and all other relevant resolutions subsequently adopted by the Council, the terms of reference of the Madrid Peace Conference, agreements previously reached by the parties, the Quartet road map and the Arab Peace Initiative as adopted at the Arab summit in Beirut;

27. We call upon the parties, in line with the preceding paragraph, to resume direct negotiations to achieve the solution of two States, Israel and a viable, geographically contiguous Palestinian State on the basis of the borders of 4 June 1967; urge the two parties to refrain from unilateral actions that could lead to an escalation and to avoid entrenched positions with regard to the outcome of negotiations on issues relating to a final and comprehensive peace agreement, such as the status of Jerusalem as the capital of both States or a fair and lasting approach to the refugee question, without prejudice to the resolution of all final status issues, so as to avoid the adoption of stances likely to exacerbate the climate of mistrust and undermine the chances of reaching a peace agreement; and strongly condemn the ongoing settlement activities, which are illegal under international law, and recurring incitement to violence;[1]

28. We draw attention to the importance of addressing the dire humanitarian and security situation in the Gaza Strip; call for swift action to improve the situation and underscore the need for all parties to comply with international law; welcome the reforms undertaken by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); and call upon the international community to continue providing the Agency with equitable support, so that it may address its budget shortfall, diversify its funding sources, meet its obligations and carry out its mission in the service of Palestinian refugees in its five regional operations centres;

29. We renew our strong condemnation of terrorist acts, whatsoever the reasons and by whomsoever committed, and violent extremism conducive to terrorism and express solidarity with the member States and Governments of OIF that have been affected by such acts; welcome the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism under General Assembly resolution 71/291 and the adoption of Security Council resolutions regarding international counter-terrorism initiatives; make a commitment to take the appropriate steps in accordance with international law, including Security Council resolution 2370 (2017), to combat illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, in particular to terrorists; and, where appropriate and in accordance with national legal frameworks, resolve to strengthen, in particular, our systems of data collection and analysis and to put in place, where they do not exist, laws, regulations and administrative procedures for the effective control over the production, export,

[1] Canada has lodged a reservation to paragraphs 26 and 27.

import, brokering, transit or retransfer of small arms and light weapons in areas under our jurisdiction and to ensure the physical security and proper management of stockpiles;

30. We reaffirm the commitment of the French-speaking world to combat the scourge of terrorism and our determination to continue efforts to prevent radicalization and violent extremism conducive to terrorism and undertake to implement all the relevant international instruments to eliminate all forms of discrimination and to promote inclusion, respect for diversity, tolerance and harmonious coexistence;

31. We strongly condemn incitement to commit terrorist acts and underscore the appeal made to States to prohibit and prevent such conduct in accordance with Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) and undertake to adhere to the comprehensive international framework to counter terrorist narratives in accordance with Security Council resolution 2354 (2017);

32. We welcome, in that regard, the work of OIF, including the "Libres ensemble" (Free Together) initiative and the establishment of a network for the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in the French-speaking world (FrancoPrev) and encourage OIF and other institutional stakeholders in the French-speaking world to continue their efforts in that area and, together with international partners such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to adopt meaningful initiatives, especially for young people, to foster intercultural dialogue and respect for cultural diversity;

33. We welcome the second international conference on intercultural and interfaith dialogue, held in Fez, Morocco, from 10 to 12 September 2018, and efforts by OIF, with its international partners, to lift the profile of awareness-raising efforts by the French-speaking world on the importance of such dialogue in the framework of an inclusive approach;

34. Outraged by the ill-treatment, exploitation, trafficking and tragic disappearances suffered by many migrants, we strongly condemn those intolerable violations of human dignity and the integrity of persons and reaffirm our commitment to intensify our efforts to implement the relevant international legal instruments, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, and to contribute to the protection of the rights of migrants, regardless of their migration status;

35. Acknowledging that migration represents both a development challenge and an opportunity for all the countries involved, we stress the need to coordinate the management of migration flows and thereby work together in order to foster development in the migrants' countries of origin and protect their human rights, dignity and safety, taking into account the specific situation of women and children; encourage close cooperation among the countries of origin, transit and destination based on a universal approach encompassing the legal obligations of States, the obligations of migrants and mutual commitments; and further emphasize the need to foster conditions conducive to greater integration, at the same time boosting prevention and combating the criminal networks behind irregular immigration and trafficking in human beings, who must be provided with protection and assistance;

36. We welcome the significant contribution made by OIF, the Parliamentary Assembly and associated bodies in addressing the root causes and consequences of irregular migration and forced displacement in a spirit of shared responsibility and solidarity, in line with the resolution adopted by the ministers and heads of delegation at the thirty-first session of the Ministerial Conference of la Francophonie, held in

Yerevan in 2015, and encourage institutions in the French-speaking world to expand their efforts in that area in the context of the momentum generated by the negotiations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the global compact on refugees;

II. Living together in solidarity in the French-speaking world

Considering that living together presupposes the principles of solidarity and sharing, which form an integral part of our common heritage,

37. We reaffirm our commitment to make the French-speaking world a space for cooperation, solidarity, dialogue and interaction and our intention to strengthen its work in the fields of the economy and environment and thereby serve our people, in particular women and underrepresented population groups, and remain committed to implementing the economic strategy for the French-speaking world that was adopted at the 2014 Summit in Dakar;

38. Renewing our commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we resolve to promote an economy focused on individuals and their development, with access to decent and sustainable jobs, especially for young people and women, the reduction of inequality and the development of sustainable production and consumption patterns among our priorities, and in that regard underscore the importance of encouraging sustainable investment that creates jobs and fosters local industrial development in the economies of the French-speaking world, while limiting the impact on natural resources;

39. We believe that cooperation between the member States and Governments could be enhanced by in-depth dialogue through platforms across the French-speaking world, such as those established by the Sustainable Development Institute of la Francophonie, with a view to exchanging experiences and best practices regarding achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at the local, regional and national levels; call upon OIF to continue its activities in that area; and, aware of the vital role local authorities have to play in attaining the Goals, undertake to support their involvement in that process;

40. We undertake to facilitate exchanges and the movement of French-speaking economic actors, students, academics and artists, in particular women and young people, which are key to fostering cooperation and solidarity in the French-speaking world;

41. Acknowledging that women and young people are priority groups under the 2030 Agenda, we draw attention to the importance of inclusive and high-quality education for their social and professional integration; support the initiatives of OIF and its partners designed to foster employment through entrepreneurship among women and young people and to encourage youth mobility, including the OIF international volunteering programme; and request the Secretary General of OIF to continue and intensify her efforts in that area;

42. We welcome the economic forum, which was held on 9 and 10 October 2018 in Yerevan, alongside the Summit, to promote networking by business people and address development challenges and prospects in line with the economic strategy for the French-speaking world, and which brought together business leaders from French-speaking countries and representatives of international economic organizations; welcome also the focus on the digital economy in the forum's work; note with satisfaction in that context the launch of the network of ministers for the digital economy; and call upon OIF to provide all the support necessary to develop that network;

43. Recalling our goal of consolidating the networks of institutions, professionals and companies in the French-speaking world, in line with our economic strategy, we invite OIF to work together with States, Governments and employers' organizations to establish a network of employers' organizations for the promotion of business development in the economies of the French-speaking world;

44. Acknowledging the essential role that qualified and skilled human resources play in sustainable development, we emphasize the importance of lifelong learning and acknowledge that vocational and technical training are key to alleviating unemployment and ensuring access to jobs for all and social integration;

45. Reaffirming our commitment to high-quality and free public education for all and underscoring the critical importance of access to inclusive education and training, we recall the need for the authorities to regulate the school system as a whole in order to ensure the quality and equity of education services;

46. Bearing in mind the challenge of educating millions of children in countries most in need, we continue to support UNESCO, the lead agency for implementing Sustainable Development Goal 4 (ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all), and all initiatives for achieving that Goal, including those of the Global Partnership for Education and strongly support concerted action by OIF, particularly through its Education and Training Institute of la Francophonie, the Conference of Ministers of Education and other relevant OIF institutions, to ensure quality teaching in French and of the French language and, thereby, reinforce linguistic diversity;

47. We encourage the creation of partnerships with all relevant actors, including social housing agencies and the private sector, to make affordable housing more accessible; undertake to support the renovation of existing and substandard housing stock in the context of sustainable development; and invite Governments, including municipal and other local authorities, to strengthen inclusive initiatives to provide everyone with access to basic services;

48. Concerned about the serious threat posed to the future of the planet by the effects of climate change, especially in developing countries, and the growing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, which especially affect small island developing States and least developed countries, we reaffirm our commitment to fully implement the Paris Agreement, which was adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and entered into force on 4 November 2016, work for its universal ratification, reach its objectives, achieve the nationally determined contributions and seek ways to increase those contributions; consider it necessary, given the priority status accorded to Africa by OIF, to stress again the importance of recognizing the diverse circumstances facing African countries, including with regard to negotiation rounds of the Convention; and support the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held from 2 to 14 December 2018 in Katowice, Poland;

49. Convinced of the need to raise substantial funding to combat climate change in accordance with the provisions of the Paris Agreement, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries that are parties to the Agreement, and recognizing that the provision of increased and, to the extent possible, predictable financial resources should be aimed at achieving a balance between adaptation and mitigation, we welcome the commitments made at the One Planet Summit on climate finance, which was held in Paris on 12 December 2017; call on developed countries and all finance actors, whether public or private, to intensify their efforts to achieve the collective goal of raising $100 billion per year by 2020 and thereby help developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries, which are the most vulnerable, to enhance their efforts to mitigate and adapt to the

effects of climate change; and call upon all States and Governments to steer financial flows towards development that produces fewer greenhouse gas emissions and is more climate resilient;

50. Acknowledging the importance of addressing climate challenge at the local level, we welcome the initiatives taken by federal States and local authorities and call for further efforts to make climate finance directly accessible to them;

51. We attach great importance to environmental conservation, especially the conservation and sustainable management of land and marine ecosystems and freshwater resources, and efforts to combat desertification and marine litter, including microplastics; confirm our commitment to strengthen our cooperation, particularly with developing countries, on environmentally friendly initiatives and to promote biodiversity and the sustainable consumption and production of natural resources; draw attention to the educational and scientific support provided to States and Governments in those areas by the Sustainable Development Institute of la Francophonie; and look forward to the forthcoming fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Egypt;

52. We encourage the sustainable and equitable management of water resources and efforts to train personnel in the field and develop their professional capacity; with regard to the management of transboundary water resources, we call for cooperation based on mutual interests and confidence, in accordance with international law and Sustainable Development Goal 6 (ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all); and we encourage also accession to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes;

53. We support the Abuja Declaration issued at the International Conference on Lake Chad, which was held from 26 to 28 February 2018 in Nigeria, and in particular the decision by the African Union to include the issue of Lake Chad in its agenda as an African concern, and take note of its appeal to the African Development Bank to establish a $50 billion Lake Chad fund to, among other things, finance infrastructure projects on the lake;

54. We reiterate the need to promote the blue and green economies in member States and Governments for the sustainable management of natural resources and as new drivers of growth and call upon OIF to continue advocating the blue and green economies for sustainable development, to facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices in those areas and to support related projects with its expertise;

55. Aware of the rapid deterioration of the environment at the global level, we welcome General Assembly resolution 72/277 entitled "Towards a global pact for the environment", which was adopted on 10 May 2018, and undertake to work towards an ambitious consensus in the framework of the initiatives envisaged in the resolution;

56. Motivated by the desire to establish partnerships with regional and subregional economic areas, we note with interest the offer by the Chair of the Summit to organize an economic forum in Armenia on synergies within the French-speaking world and processes of regional economic integration, in line with the economic strategy for the French-speaking world;

III. Living together with respect for linguistic and cultural diversity

Considering that living together in the French-speaking world is underpinned by the French language, which is the cement that binds together this family, and our commitment to linguistic diversity,

57. We shall implement the comprehensive policy on promoting use of the French language, which was adopted in Kinshasa in 2012, seek to place French on a stronger footing on the international scene by applying the OIF guidance on the use of French in the international organizations, and call upon OIF to monitor that process regularly;

58. We reaffirm our commitment to effectively apply the provisions of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and its operational guidelines on the digital environment by upholding the principle of cultural exception, strengthening development cooperation and encouraging greater civil society involvement in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

59. We invite the national public television networks of member and observer States and Governments to deepen their cooperation in order to promote the use of the French language and cultural and linguistic diversity at the international level; welcome the proposal by Armenia, in its capacity as Chair of the Summit of la Francophonie, to establish Francovision, a song contest for the entire French-speaking world; and request the relevant authorities of the member and observer States and Governments, OIF and the TV5Monde television network to study the options and means for making that initiative a reality;

60. Convinced that deepening cultural cooperation among States and Governments can enhance mutual understanding and appreciation of our cultural and linguistic diversity, which is what enriches the French-speaking world, we affirm our commitment to promote exchanges and the circulation of cultural property and foster cultural innovation and the arts;

61. Recalling the Declaration adopted at the third International Conference on "Cultural policy, policy for culture: the role of culture in the post-2015 development agenda" held in Yerevan on 13 July 2015, we stress that cultural rights are an integral part of human rights and fundamental freedoms and that everyone has the right to preserve and develop their culture, traditions, religion and language, in compliance with international human rights obligations, and to fully participate in the cultural life of society without prejudice or hindrance;

62. We stress that cross-cultural activities conducted at the bilateral, multilateral, regional and international levels and cooperation in international forums should be based on the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

63. We acknowledge the need, in accordance with international law, to protect and preserve the cultural heritage of the French-speaking world and that of humanity as a whole and endorse the ongoing efforts of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, including UNESCO, in that regard and the progress made since the International Conference on Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Conflict Areas, which was held in Abu Dhabi in December 2016, and strongly condemn assaults on cultural heritage and the ideologically motivated destruction and looting of cultural property;

64. We welcome the success of the Francophonie Games, which were held in Abidjan, in Côte d'Ivoire, in July 2017, and were a remarkable demonstration of solidarity among the countries and peoples of the French-speaking world and highlighted sporting and cultural diversity and talents; express appreciation to the authorities of Côte d'Ivoire for their warm hospitality and the excellent organization of the Games; and wish every success to the organizers of the next Games, which will be held in the cities of Moncton and Dieppe in New Brunswick, Canada, in 2021;

65. We welcome also the holding of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of la Francophonie on Culture in Abidjan alongside the Games, note with satisfaction the declaration and action plan adopted at the Conference, which chart a vision for

enhancing cultural and linguistic diversity and participation in culture, and will monitor progress on implementation;

66. Recalling the digital strategy for the French-speaking world, which was adopted at the 2012 Summit in Kinshasa, we reaffirm the importance of promoting the use of the French language in the global digital space, which is key to fostering cultural and linguistic diversity, particularly under the four pillars of the digital strategy; request OIF to continue its efforts to contribute to the creation of digital content in French, with a focus on equality between women and men and inclusion; undertake to work to enhance the visibility of and access to French and multilingual content online through search engine optimization and in audiovisual and digital services; and endorse the idea that States, digital platforms and civil society are jointly responsible for fostering greater cultural diversity in the digital space;

67. Acknowledging that the online presence of the French language and culture depends in part on distribution platforms, we undertake to support and develop TV5 as a priority platform in the analogue and digital environments of our States and Governments;

68. Recalling that the Internet should provide an opportunity to strengthen the democratic exercise of rights and freedoms, we renew our appeals, made at the Kinshasa and Dakar summits, for the adoption and implementation of global standards and national laws laying down the principles of effective personal data protection;

69. Aware of the major role played by innovation and knowledge transfer, we renew our support for the endeavours of OIF, the Parliamentary Assembly, associated bodies and the standing ministerial conferences designed to foster innovation, digital development and entrepreneurship, for the web-based and mobile initiatives launched by the Francophone Digital Innovation Fund and the Francophone Innovation Network and for the campuses of the Nouvel Espace Universitaire Francophone, established by the University Agency of la Francophonie, one of the objectives of which is to foster collaboration in the areas of digital creativity and innovation in teaching and business;

70. Aware that access to digital resources is critical for universities, we support the digital development initiative for universities in the French-speaking world, which held its third meeting of ministers of higher education from French-speaking countries in Marrakesh, Morocco, in June 2018 to discuss various approaches to financing digital development in universities and we encourage the University Agency of la Francophonie and OIF to continue with that initiative;

71. We welcome the efforts of the Parliamentary Assembly, the University Agency of la Francophonie, TV5, Senghor University of Alexandria, the international association of mayors and officials of partially or fully French-speaking capitals and major cities and the standing ministerial conferences on education and youth and sport in promoting the ideal of living together and their ongoing commitment to cultural diversity;

72. Convinced that knowing one another is vital for intercultural dialogue and promotes peace, we reaffirm our commitment to the TV5 multilateral television network, which is an associated body of OIF, a showcase of the cultural diversity of the French-speaking world and an essential vehicle for learning and teaching French and promoting the language internationally. We therefore undertake to ensure that it can broadcast and engage in promotion on an equal footing with national networks; to that end, we undertake to adopt all appropriate measures to ensure the broadest possible access for our people to TV5 channels across the spectrum of distribution media and especially those that are most widely used;

73. Acknowledging the vital place that French-speaking young people have in our societies and their crucial role in disseminating the values of living together, we welcome their statement on the theme of the Summit, as a vehicle for cultural and linguistic diversity, and that of the International Conference of NGOs;

Believing firmly in the need to set forth in an official document of OIF the principles for living together that will guide our future efforts to enhance cooperation, solidarity, dialogue and tolerance, based on shared values, we adopt the Yerevan Declaration of the French-speaking world on living together;

Renewing our resolve and determination to promote the ideal of living together, we pledge to implement the decisions taken at the Yerevan Summit, confident that they will help to build a peaceful and prosperous future.